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Introduction to Cross-Validation

Does not use the full dataset for training and does not test on the full dataset

Does not use the full dataset for training and does not test on the full dataset

Does not use the full dataset for training and does not test on the full dataset

No way to optimize hyperparameters

Does not use the full dataset for training and does not test on the full dataset

No way to optimize hyperparameters

Does not use the full dataset for training and does not test on the full dataset

No way to optimize hyperparameters

This simple train/test split has limitations we need to address

Answer

Answer

- Does not utilize the full dataset for training

Answer

- Does not utilize the full dataset for training
- Cannot optimize hyperparameters systematically

Answer

- Does not utilize the full dataset for training
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Answer

- Does not utilize the full dataset for training
- Cannot optimize hyperparameters systematically
- Results depend on the particular split chosen

Answer

- Does not utilize the full dataset for training
- Cannot optimize hyperparameters systematically
- Results depend on the particular split chosen
- May not get reliable performance estimates

Full Dataset Utilization

Over multiple iterations, use different parts of the dataset for training and testing

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Typically done via different random splits of the dataset

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Challenge: How to ensure systematic evaluation?

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May not use every data point for training or testing with random splits

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Challenge: How to ensure systematic evaluation?

May not use every data point for training or testing with random splits

May be computationally expensive

K-Fold Cross-Validation

- Each data point is used for testing exactly once

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- Each data point is used for training $(k - 1)/k$ of the time

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- Each data point is used for testing exactly once
- Each data point is used for training $(k - 1)/k$ of the time
- Provides more robust performance estimates

Answer

80 data points (4 out of 5 folds = $4/5 \times 100 = 80$)

Hyperparameter Optimization

Validation set helps select the best hyperparameters

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Test set remains untouched until final evaluation

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Validation set helps select the best hyperparameters

Test set remains untouched until final evaluation

This prevents overfitting to the test set

Nested Cross-Validation

Each fold provides one validation score

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Process is systematic and exhaustive

Answer

Answer

- Simple CV: Used for model evaluation only

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- Nested CV: Outer loop for model evaluation, inner loop for hyperparameter tuning

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Answer

- Simple CV: Used for model evaluation only
- Nested CV: Outer loop for model evaluation, inner loop for hyperparameter tuning
- Nested CV provides unbiased estimates when doing hyperparameter search

Final model is trained on entire training set

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Final model is trained on entire training set

Standard deviation gives confidence in results

Answer

Answer

- Single fold results can be misleading due to data variance

Answer

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- Averaging provides more robust performance estimates

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- Single fold results can be misleading due to data variance
- Averaging provides more robust performance estimates
- Reduces impact of lucky/unlucky splits

Answer

- Single fold results can be misleading due to data variance
- Averaging provides more robust performance estimates
- Reduces impact of lucky/unlucky splits
- Standard deviation indicates reliability of the estimate

Cross-Validation Variants

Special case where $k = n$ (number of data points)

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Each fold uses exactly one data point for testing

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Each fold uses exactly one data point for testing

Advantages:

- Maximum use of data for training

Special case where $k = n$ (number of data points)

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- Deterministic (no randomness)

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Disadvantages:

- Computationally expensive

Special case where $k = n$ (number of data points)

Each fold uses exactly one data point for testing

Advantages:

- Maximum use of data for training
- Deterministic (no randomness)

Disadvantages:

- Computationally expensive
- High variance in estimates

Maintains class distribution in each fold

Maintains class distribution in each fold

Maintains class distribution in each fold

Important for imbalanced datasets

Maintains class distribution in each fold

Important for imbalanced datasets

Maintains class distribution in each fold

Important for imbalanced datasets

Each fold has approximately same proportion of classes

Maintains class distribution in each fold

Important for imbalanced datasets

Each fold has approximately same proportion of classes

Maintains class distribution in each fold

Important for imbalanced datasets

Each fold has approximately same proportion of classes

Example: If dataset is 70% class A, 30% class B, each fold maintains this ratio

Maintains class distribution in each fold

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Reduces variance in performance estimates

Answer

Answer

- Regular CV might create folds with very few (or zero) positive examples

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- This would give misleading performance estimates

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- Stratified CV ensures each fold has $\sim 10\%$ positive examples

Answer

- Regular CV might create folds with very few (or zero) positive examples
- This would give misleading performance estimates
- Stratified CV ensures each fold has $\sim 10\%$ positive examples
- Results in more reliable and consistent evaluation

Time Series Cross-Validation

Regular CV assumes data points are independent

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Time series data has temporal dependencies

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Time series data has temporal dependencies

Forward Chaining: Train on past, test on future

Regular CV assumes data points are independent

Time series data has temporal dependencies

Forward Chaining: Train on past, test on future

Regular CV assumes data points are independent

Time series data has temporal dependencies

Forward Chaining: Train on past, test on future

Rolling Window: Fixed-size training window

Regular CV assumes data points are independent

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Expanding Window: Growing training set over time

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Forward Chaining: Train on past, test on future

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Never use future data to predict past!

Common Pitfalls and Best Practices

Data Leakage: Information from test set influences training

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Incorrect Splitting: Not accounting for grouped data

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Overfitting to CV: Too much hyperparameter tuning

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Wrong Preprocessing: Scaling on entire dataset before splitting

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Incorrect Splitting: Not accounting for grouped data

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Data Leakage: Information from test set influences training

Incorrect Splitting: Not accounting for grouped data

Overfitting to CV: Too much hyperparameter tuning

Wrong Preprocessing: Scaling on entire dataset before splitting

Ignoring Class Imbalance: Not using stratified CV when needed

Answer

Answer

- This causes data leakage!

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- Test fold statistics influence the training preprocessing

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- Should compute statistics only on training folds

Answer

- This causes data leakage!
- Test fold statistics influence the training preprocessing
- Should compute statistics only on training folds
- Apply same transformation to corresponding test fold

Answer

- This causes data leakage!
- Test fold statistics influence the training preprocessing
- Should compute statistics only on training folds
- Apply same transformation to corresponding test fold
- This gives more realistic performance estimates

Summary and Key Takeaways

Better Data Utilization: Every point used for both training and testing

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Robust Evaluation: Multiple train/test splits reduce variance

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Hyperparameter Tuning: Systematic way to select best parameters

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Model Comparison: Fair comparison between different algorithms

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Model Comparison: Fair comparison between different algorithms

Confidence Estimates: Standard deviation indicates reliability

K-Fold (k=5,10): General purpose, most common

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Stratified: Imbalanced classification problems

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K-Fold ($k=5,10$): General purpose, most common

Stratified: Imbalanced classification problems

LOOCV: Small datasets, when computational cost is acceptable

K-Fold ($k=5,10$): General purpose, most common

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Time Series CV: Temporal data with dependencies

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K-Fold (k=5,10): General purpose, most common

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LOOCV: Small datasets, when computational cost is acceptable

Time Series CV: Temporal data with dependencies

Nested CV: When doing extensive hyperparameter search

Always preprocess within each fold separately

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Use stratification for classification problems

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Use stratification for classification problems

Always preprocess within each fold separately

Use stratification for classification problems

Report mean \pm standard deviation

Always preprocess within each fold separately

Use stratification for classification problems

Report mean \pm standard deviation

Always preprocess within each fold separately

Use stratification for classification problems

Report mean \pm standard deviation

Don't overfit to cross-validation results

Always preprocess within each fold separately

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Use nested CV for unbiased hyperparameter search

Next time: Ensemble Learning

- How to combine various models?

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- How to combine various models?
- Why combine multiple models?

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- How to combine various models?
- Why combine multiple models?
- How can we reduce bias?

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- How to combine various models?
- Why combine multiple models?
- How can we reduce bias?
- How can we reduce variance?

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- How to combine various models?
- Why combine multiple models?
- How can we reduce bias?
- How can we reduce variance?
- Bootstrap aggregating (Bagging)

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Next time: Ensemble Learning

- How to combine various models?
- Why combine multiple models?
- How can we reduce bias?
- How can we reduce variance?
- Bootstrap aggregating (Bagging)
- Boosting methods